

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINR, IS, US

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS AND SECOND A/ARMA POSITION

REF: TEL AVIV 2938

1. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION REGARDING THE STATUS AND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE PROPOSED TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT (TIEA); THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE LIAISON PROGRAM AT THE TRADOC COMBINED ARMS TEST ACTIVITY (TCATA); AND MAJOR ROBERTS' POSITION. WE WOULD LIKE TO SYNCHRONIZE OUR CONSIDERATION OF THESE PROGRAMS AND MAJOR ROBERTS' POSITION BY REVIEWING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THESE PROGRAMS, AND HOW MAJOR ROBERTS' POSITION INTERFACES WITH THEM.

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2. TIEA: THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT CALLS FOR AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND TRAINING WITH THE ISRAELIS ON PROCEDURES, PROCESSES AND CONTROL TECHNIQUES IN THE GATHERING AND DISSEMINATION OF BATTLEFIELD INTELLIGENCE, PRIMARILY TACTICAL LEVEL SIGINT, BUT INCLUDING REMOTE SENSORS AND OTHER EW DEVICES. THE AGREEMENT WOULD PROVIDE FOR EXCHANGE VISITORS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A U.S. ARMY-IDF JOINT COMMITTEE

ON TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREE-

MENT WOULD BE FACILITATED BY EXCHANGE OF AN ACCREDITED LIAISON OFFICER. (THE SECOND A/ARMA POSITION.)

3. TCATA - UNDER THIS PROGRAM AN IDF PROJECT OFFICER WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO ARMY'S COMBINED ARMS TEST ACTIVITY AT FORT HOOD WHILE A COUNTERPART HEBREW TRAINED U.S. OFFICER WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO IDF ORGANIZATIONS WHICH DEAL WITH COMBAT DEVELOPMENT, TACTICS AND DOCTRINE. THIS OFFICER WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE IDF AND, WHILE UNDER CONTROL OF THE DAO, WOULD NOT OCCUPY AN ATTACHE POSITION.

4. IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR WHETHER A FORMAL TIEA WOULD PROVIDE ENOUGH BENEFIT TO THE U.S. TO REQUIRE FORMAL EXTENSION OF WHAT IS PROBABLY AN ALREADY SUFFICIENTLY INTIMATE AND EXTENSIVE INTELLIGENCE RELATIONSHIP. WE ARE PRESENTLY STUDYING THE EXTENT OF THAT RELATIONSHIP AND WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A DECISION ONLY AFTER WE HAVE DETERMINED WHETHER THE TCATA AND TIEA ARE NECESSARY IN GAINING FOR US INTELLIGENCE WHICH COULD OTHERWISE NOT BE OBTAINED UNDER EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS, AND WHETHER THIS ADDED INTELLIGENCE WOULD SUFFICIENTLY OFFSET OUR CONCERNS OF FURTHER EXPANDING THE RELATIONSHIP.

5. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, MAJOR ROBERTS' POSITION IS ONLY INCIDENTALLY RELATED TO TCATA AND DOES NOT INVOLVE SERVICE WITH THE IDF. THIS POSITION WAS INTENDED TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TIEA AND ONLY IN THE ABSENCE

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OF THE PROPOSED HEBREW-TRAINED TCATA OFFICER WAS MAJOR ROBERTS EXPECTED TO PERFORM TCATA FUNCTIONS ON AN AS AVAILABLE BASIS. MAJOR ROBERTS' POSITION THEREFORE MUST BE JUSTIFIED SOLELY ON TIEA FUNCTIONS OR, IN THE ABSENCE OF A FORMAL TIEA, ON WHETHER OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL AT THIS TIME OFFERS SUFFICIENT EXPLOITATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SECOND A/ARMA POSITION. SHOULD THE TCATA EXCHANGE BE FINALIZED, A SEPARATE PROJECT OFFICER POSITION FOR SERVICE IN THE IDF WILL BE CREATED.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THE COMPELLING HUMAN ARGUMENTS FOR MAKING A DETERMINATION ON THE SECOND A/ARMA POSITION AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE COMPLEXITY OF THE FACTORS INVOLVED IN THAT DECISION AND THAT AMBASSADOR LEWIS WILL BE ARRIVING WITHIN TWO WEEKS, WE WOULD WISH TO GIVE HIM THE PREROGATIVE OF REVIEWING HIS STAFF REQUIREMENTS BEFORE MAKING ANY FINAL DECISION. CHRISTOPHER

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